red eye

Thursday
FEBRUARY 11, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune publication

AP FILE PHOTOS

GRAMMYS DOUBLE WHAMMY

THE AWARD SHOW PITS KENDRICK LAMAR AGAINST TAYLOR SWIFT. WHO WILL WIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR?

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This cocktail has broccoli & it's good *17*

BY SAMANTHA NELSON FOR REDEYE | REDEYE@REDEYECHICAGO.COM » GET MORE SPONTANEOUS EAT. DRINK. DO. IDEAS AT REDEYECHICAGO.COM

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DRINK

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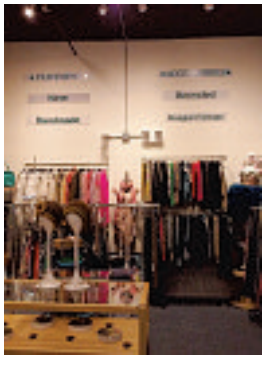

3-DAY FORECAST

THURSDAY 21 8 Yep,

FRIDAY 24 11 Still

SATURDAY 14 5 Winter

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Millennium Park in January 2014
NANCY STONE / TRIBUNE FILE

ZIPPING ALONG

ZIPLINE AND BABY ALLIGATOR COMING TO MILLENNIUM PARK THIS WEEKEND

By Leonor Vivanco | REDEYE

Thrill-seekers, not to mention cold-seekers, can head to Millennium Park this weekend to zipline in 20-degree weather and possibly consider, well, zipping down to Florida in search of warmer weather.

The 190-foot-long zipline experience—beginning on a three-story platform set up in the North Chase Promenade—is part of a Florida tourism campaign with the slogan "Escape Cold. Warm Your Heart" to encourage Chicagoans to visit Kissimmee, near Orlando and Walt Disney World.

"For this campaign, we decided to bring some of the warm-weather fun to our freezing friends here in Chicago," D.T. Minich, president and CEO of Experience Kissimmee, a tourism marketing organization, said in a news release.

But let's be clear: They're not bringing the weather, so bundle up for the Millennium Park event, from 11 a.m. to 5 p.m. Saturday through Monday.

In Kissimmee, the mercury could hit 72 degrees, according to the National Weather Service, and Sunday will be slightly cooler with a high near 68. On Monday, the high will again be near 72 degrees.

In Chicago, Saturday's high will be 14 degrees and Sunday's high will be 23 degrees, according to the weather service's website. On Monday the high is expected to be above freezing, at a balmy 33 degrees.

The zipline will slope down to the ground, and daredevils will be guided into the "Toasting Tent." Zipline participants must weigh at least 75 pounds but no more than 250 pounds. There is no age restriction.

Those without an adventurous streak can stop inside the tent as well to warm up, sip on hot cocoa, meet and snap a pic of a baby alligator from the Gatorland adventure theme park and register to win prizes including a Kissimmee vacation.

It makes sense that Florida would try to lure Chicagoans to vacation there considering summer is more than four months away and bundling up and wearing puffy winter coats have grown tiresome for many.

It turns out that a number of Kissimmee visitors come from the Midwest and Northeast, mainly Chicago and New York, and research showed Chicago is a "top feeder market" for Kissimmee, said Nori Rodriguez, communications manager for Experience Kissimmee.

Chicago currently has 22 nonstop flights daily to the Orlando International Airport, and that number bumps up to 26 only for the month of March, she said.

Experience Kissimmee also is asking people to bring a new or gently used coat to donate to a drop box for One Warm Coat to benefit Chicago Public Schools.

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threesome

3 PERSPECTIVES ON ONE RELATIONSHIP QUESTION

Welcome to "Threesome." Each week, we'll take a look at a relationship question from the public and have three panelists give their insights. Have a question to ask? Shoot it over to us on Twitter at **@redeyechicago** or on our Facebook page. If it's a little more private, feel free to email it to **redeye@redeyechicago.com** with the word "Threesome" in the subject line.

How do you guys handle money when it comes to dating? I'm highly feminist, so chivalry really doesn't do it for me. Plus, as someone who pays their own way ... through one of the more expensive colleges in the world, I don't really have money to blow. I usually just do a trade-off with girls I date (e.g., I pay for dinner [and] they pay for dessert, or I pay for the first date and she pays for the second), but during a convo with some roommates, they became appalled. Am I doing something wrong? —*Question via Reddit*

Keri Wiginton
Married, 33
» Photo editor and part-time advice giver at the Chicago Tribune
» @keripheto

The overwhelming response I got on this one is the person who requests the date pays. On the first few dates with someone, if you're asking, then you should offer to pay. Plenty of women might insist on going Dutch or paying for a second date. But if you're asking for multiple dates and the lady isn't offering up her credit card, then you should expect to foot the bill. If a guy asked me out and then suggested I pay for dessert, I would just think he was cheap or he needed someone to help him pay for a nice meal out. Sorry, but that's the reality. If you want to take someone out but you can't afford it, get creative and find an activity that requires little or no money. Try a museum visit on a free day, cooking at home or playing Scrabble at a coffee shop.

Isaac Paul
In a relationship, 36
» Host, devil's advocate and resident know-it-all of "The Tequila Tales"
» @thetequilatales

So admittedly we are in a very gray area when it comes to dating in 2016. While it is definitely a benefit to be a proponent for equal rights, the first few dates are customarily a bad time to adorn yourself in your feminist garb. Despite a woman's strength and self-sufficiency, many still desire to follow traditional patterns in dating, which includes the man paying. Expecting or encouraging a woman to pay anything on the first few dates is a surefire way to cement yourself in the "Friend Zone." This tradition, however, is a lot less about money and a lot more about the man taking the initiative. I suggest that you map out dates that are fun and memorable yet easy on the pockets. After a few dates under your belt, I think it is completely fair to expect some reciprocity. Otherwise, you're dating someone selfish.

Sade Carpenter
Single, 30
» Chicago Tribune editorial assistant
» @SadeMichelle

In "Emma Watson Said Feminism & Chivalry Aren't Mutually Exclusive. Here's Why She's Right," Lulu Chang writes, "I don't expect you to open the door for me because I'm a *woman*, but because I'm a human being. And because I appreciate your paying for this date because *you* asked *me* out, and are making a decent gesture as one human being to another." Agreed. I, too, consider myself a feminist but also believe in common courtesy. I take note when men hold doors and stand when I arrive. I don't expect him to pay every time, but I do if he initiated the date. I have no problem paying if I initiate it, and it's not appalling to split the bill on occasion. Plan thoughtful dates that fit your budget, and communicate with your girl. Unless you intend to date your roommates, their opinions don't matter much here.

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sports

Heather Demps and her husband, Northwestern guard Tre Demps
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LOVE & BASKETBALL

NU GUARD JUGGLES HOOPS, SCHOOL, MARRIAGE AND IMPENDING FATHERHOOD

By Paul Skrbina | TRIBUNE

Dinner in sweatpants turned into coffee in more formal wear turned into even more formal wear and a wedding, which, soon, will turn into parenthood.

Life can't be summed up in one sentence. But let's say it has moved quickly for Northwestern graduate student-athlete Tre Demps. First, though, the dinner in November 2013.

The Wildcats men's basketball team's home opener was the next day. The 6-foot-3 guard knew not what he was walking into.

Heather Demps was Heather John then. She had grown up in Chicago the daughter of a single mother and a sister to two brothers. She had reached out via Facebook to former NU basketball player Reggie Hearn in search of a male mentor for one of them, Nolan, then 13.

Hearn suggested Tre. After two weeks, Heather texted him and they agreed to meet.

"I had never heard of him," she said. "Within a week he asked if I would go to coffee. I figured it wasn't just to talk about my brother."

She was right. Tre, whose father is former NBA player Dell Demps, talked about how an injury brought him closer to God.

"That's what really drew me to him," Heather said.

Before she knew it, Heather had found not only a mentor for her brother, but also her first boyfriend. And future husband. She said yes to that offer of coffee. Soon, the two were dating.

Heather said yes again when Tre proposed on March 22, 2015. He had saved up for five months for the engagement ring. The two were married June 13 at Edgewater Baptist Church, the church Heather attended as a child. Tre's NU teammates were there for the big day.

"It's a first for me, having a player be married," said third-year Wildcats coach Chris Collins, who spent 13 seasons as an assistant coach for Duke. "I've coached some guys who have had children. ... In a lot of respects, I think it's helped him."

Speaking of children, the Demps' daughter is due March 14. That's the day after the Big Ten tournament championship. Northwestern is a long shot to play in the game or to reach its first NCAA tournament, but Tre would welcome the chaos.

"He promises us if we make the tournament, he's not going to miss a game," teammate Bryant McIntosh said. "I'm going to tell him, no matter what, to go. His wife might kill him."

Tre said he hasn't had a lot of time to think about impending fatherhood, that between studies and basketball and life, he thinks of it mostly when he talks about it with Heather.

"I try to stay focused on the here and now," he said. "When she comes, she comes. That's my mindset right now."

Tre was described as once being a bit of a "loner" and an "introvert" by McIntosh. But people around the NU basketball program have noticed a chance in Tre since his nuptials.

"The thing is, they had never kissed until the day they got married," McIntosh said. "It was kind of the expectation, the anticipation of it, that's something I'll always remember.

"After he got married, I feel like he has opened up. She's brought out the best in him. That's one of the biggest compliments I can give her and him."

Tre averages more minutes (36.7) than any other Wildcat and is second to McIntosh in points (14.7 per game) and assists (3.6), but he has struggled some this season.

"What I struggle with most is trying not to take what happens in basketball home with me," Tre said. "Sometimes it's almost impossible. You want to do well and you want to win so bad. But you just try your best—try to be the best husband you can be, try to be the best student."

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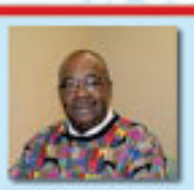

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FROM NEWS SERVICES studs&duds

Super Bowl 50 champion and Denver Bronco DeMarcus Ware (left) greets Brie Larson on 'Jimmy Kimmel Live.'

Bears are the Super Bowl champs? Oh, Brie Larson ...

By Phil Thompson | CHICAGO TRIBUNE

You figure "Room" actress Brie Larson isn't the biggest football fan in the world when she told Jimmy Kimmel she didn't know who won Super Bowl 50 and her best guess was the Chicago Bears.

But you question if the Oscar nominee even knows what football is when her next stab at it was the Cubs.

Larson fumbled with the answer on Kimmel's late-night show Monday by asking him whether the mascot was an animal. "OK, OK, OK, OK. The Bears? The Cubs! No. [Bleep]," she said, holding her head down while Kimmel laughed. "I'm not going to keep going with this."

"It doesn't matter, you'll figure it out when the guy from the team comes out," Kimmel said.

"He's here?" Larson asked.

Apparently, she also had no clue she would be sharing the talk show stage with Broncos pass rusher DeMarcus Ware, fresh off Denver's victory in the Super Bowl, whatever that is.

Punk debut on hold

Sorry, C.M. Punk fans. The pro wrestler-turned-MMA fighter has suffered a setback en route to his UFC debut. Punk (aka Chicago native Phil Brooks) was scheduled to have surgery on a herniated disc on Wednesday, according to **MMAfighting.com**. "My back has always bugged me," he told the site. Punk also injured his shoulder while training.

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WHO PNEU?

KENDRICK VS TAYLOR

WHO WILL WIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR AT THE GRAMMYS?

By Josh Terry | REDEYE

This year's marquee, A-list, title-fight matchup at the Grammys pits Kendrick Lamar (11 nominations) against Taylor Swift (7), two completely different artists occupying not just separate lanes but different highways altogether.

Screw it, though; both artists are duking it out for Album of the Year (with Alabama Shakes, Chris Stapleton and The Weeknd, BTW) on Monday, so let's see how Taylor Swift's "1989," a bubbly, synth-laden pop album about moving to New York and breaking hearts, ranks next to Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly," a freewheeling, jazzy and ambitious rap album about battling your demons and learning to love yourself (among many other things).

This comparison is 100 percent apples and oranges, I know, but how else do members of the Recording Academy's voting bloc debate these albums anyway? How do they align something like Alabama Shakes' "Sound and Color" next to The Weeknd's "Beauty Behind the Madness," not to mention Tay vs. K.Dot? I'm not sure, but let's see if RedEye can do their job for them (and hopefully better).

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BEST SONG

Lamar: "Alright"
I've written enough about this song (it was RedEye's No. 1 track of 2015) to say that this was one of the most important tracks of the year, if not the most important. No song laid a more accurate or more optimistic claim to capture America's turbulent social and political climate.

Swift: "Out of the Woods"
This is the most triumphant song on "1989." The crisp, Chvrches-lite synths and Swift's magnetic vocal delivery make it flow so seamlessly.

Edge: Lamar. See above.

SECOND-BEST SONG

Lamar: "King Kunta." Or, like, all of them.
It's damn near impossible to rank the tracks on the immensely interwoven and impeccably sequenced "To Pimp A Butterfly." It's not really a singles album and is best experienced in one consecutive listen.

Swift: "Style"
As much as the songs on "1989" got immense radio play, I keep getting the "James Dean daydream" line stuck in my head more than most.

Edge: Uhh, Lamar.

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

Lamar: "Alright"
Save for the incredibly shot and choreographed visual for Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment's "Sunday Candy," the best video of the year was Kendrick Lamar's Colin Tilley-directed clip for "Alright." The black-and-white imagery is stunning, and the message is hard to miss.

Swift: "Out of the Woods"
Watching the gritty and colorful video for "Out of the Woods," it's clear this was Swift's most physically demanding video shoot. Director Joseph Kahn said as much, tweeting, "Taylor was so dedicated to making this video. I was wrapped in snow gear. She was in a dress. She suffered for her art."

Edge: Lamar. This clip is more innovative than showy.

CHOICE LYRICS

Lamar: "The ghost of Mandela, hope my flows they propel it/Let these words be your earth and moon you consume every message/As I lead this army make room for mistakes and depression/And with that being said my [bleep], let me ask this question/When [bleep] hit the fan, is you still a fan?" ("Mortal Man")

Swift: "Are we out of the woods yet?/Are we out of the woods yet?/Are we out of the woods yet?/Are we out of the woods?/Are we in the clear yet?/Are we in the clear yet?/In the clear yet?/Good." ("Out of the Woods")

Edge: Guess.

CHOICE DISS

Lamar: "I can dig rapping, but a rapper with a ghost writer?/What the [bleep] happened? (Oh no) I swore I wouldn't tell/But most of y'all share bars, like you got the bottom bunk in a two-man cell." ("King Kunta")

Swift: "Band-Aids don't fix bullet holes/You say sorry just for show/You live like that, you live with ghosts." ("Bad Blood")

Edge: Katy Perry. Though Drake was arguably the target of Kendrick Lamar's ire, Swift's feud with pop's other gargantuan megastar not named Beyonce was a bigger deal.

WORST SONG

Lamar: The second half of "Mortal Man"
The closing track of "To Pimp A Butterfly" clocks in at a whopping 12 minutes. Much of that runtime, though, is dedicated to Lamar Forrest Gumping himself into an interview with his idol Tupac Shakur. It's a fitting moment in the record but not the most lively listening experience.

Swift: "Welcome to New York"
While it makes a little more sense in the context of the whole album, this opener is so, so, so grating. I can't stand it.

Edge: Swift. As much as I hate that song, it does have more replay value than the resurfaced and repurposed Tupac Shakur interview.

FAMOUS FRIENDS

Lamar: President Obama.
The POTUS recently said that Lamar's "How Much a Dollar Cost" was his favorite song of 2015. Obama also welcomed Lamar to the White House to discuss issues facing the youth and Compton.

Swift: Selena Gomez.
Two of pop's biggest names are also the bestest friends. Check Instagram for some charming selfies, and check Gomez co-starring in Swift's bonkers "Bad Blood" video.

Edge: Swift. Sorry, pal! Being the leader of the free world is cool and all, Barack, but I don't think you could write a song as good as "Same Old Love" even with the help of Charli XCX.

ALBUM COVER

Lamar

Swift

Edge: Lamar.
While both images take on a vintage Polaroid feel, only Lamar's has political and emotional weight.

OVERALL WINNER

Lamar. Again, both albums are great, and comparing them is weird. But still.

WHY KENDRICK DESERVES TO WIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

SOUND BOARD
Josh Terry
» jterry@redeyechicago.com
» @joshhterry

Before Monday's awards even start, Kendrick Lamar already has made Grammys history. With 11 nominations, the trailblazing Compton rapper is second only to Michael Jackson's 12 nods in 1984 ("Thriller") for most ever. That's great, especially when you consider that historically the Grammys have messed up not only when it comes to Lamar (snubbed him in 2014 to give Macklemore and Ryan Lewis Best Rap Album) but for hip-hop and black artists in general. Lamar knows as much but remains hopeful, telling Billboard, "It's bigger than me. When we think about the Grammys, only Lauryn Hill [in 1999] and Outkast [in 2004] have won Album of the Year. [A win] would be big for hip-hop culture at large." He's right, and the only person standing in his way is Taylor Swift and "1989." (Who knows, though; with Beck's surprise victory over Beyonce last year, maybe all this will be for naught because of a shock Chris Stapleton win.)

As Chuck Klosterman rightfully said in his GQ profile of the superstar, "If you don't take Swift seriously, you don't take contemporary music seriously." Apart from Adele and Beyonce, no pop star has had more cultural sway or chart success than Swift. "1989," her fifth album, was composed of radio hits ("Blank Space," "Style" and "Shake It Off," to name just a few whose words you surely know by heart) and songs that could've been everywhere had she made them singles ("Clean," the bonus track "New Romantics.") It sold a bonkers 1.287 million copies in its first week and impressed enough critics to place No. 7 on the 2014 Village Voice Pazz and Jop year-end poll. Plus, her star-studded "1989" world tour grossed an average of $4 million per night, and Ryan Adams' cover album of her songs shot to No. 7 on the Billboard album chart (his second-highest ranking to date). With that success and her past domination of the Grammys (her second album, "Fearless," won Album of the Year; her fourth, "Red," was nominated), not to mention the quality of her songs (except for the grating "Welcome to New York," which I liked better in a Mary-Kate and Ashley movie), "1989" seems like a safe bet to win big this year.

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KENDRICK VS TAYLOR

WHO WILL WIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR AT THE GRAMMYS?

By Josh Terry | REDEYE

This year's marquee, A-list, title-fight matchup at the Grammys pits Kendrick Lamar (11 nominations) against Taylor Swift (7), two completely different artists occupying not just separate lanes but different highways altogether.

Screw it, though; both artists are duking it out for Album of the Year (with Alabama Shakes, Chris Stapleton and The Weeknd, BTW) on Monday, so let's see how Taylor Swift's "1989," a bubbly, synth-laden pop album about moving to New York and breaking hearts, ranks next to Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly," a freewheeling, jazzy and ambitious rap album about battling your demons and learning to love yourself (among many other things).

This comparison is 100 percent apples and oranges, I know, but how else do members of the Recording Academy's voting bloc debate these albums anyway? How do they align something like Alabama Shakes' "Sound and Color" next to The Weeknd's "Beauty Behind the Madness," not to mention Tay vs. K.Dot? I'm not sure, but let's see if RedEye can do their job for them (and hopefully better).

@JOSHHTERRY | JTERRY@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

BEST SONG

Lamar: "Alright"
I've written enough about this song (it was RedEye's No. 1 track of 2015) to say that this was one of the most important tracks of the year, if not the most important. No song laid a more accurate or more optimistic claim to capture America's turbulent social and political climate.

Swift: "Out of the Woods"
This is the most triumphant song on "1989." The crisp, Chvrches-lite synths and Swift's magnetic vocal delivery make it flow so seamlessly.

Edge: Lamar. See above.

SECOND-BEST SONG

Lamar: "King Kunta." Or, like, all of them.
It's damn near impossible to rank the tracks on the immensely interwoven and impeccably sequenced "To Pimp A Butterfly." It's not really a singles album and is best experienced in one consecutive listen.

Swift: "Style"
As much as the songs on "1989" got immense radio play, I keep getting the "James Dean daydream" line stuck in my head more than most.

Edge: Uhh, Lamar.

BEST MUSIC VIDEO

Lamar: "Alright"
Save for the incredibly shot and choreographed visual for Donnie Trumpet and the Social Experiment's "Sunday Candy," the best video of the year was Kendrick Lamar's Colin Tilley-directed clip for "Alright." The black-and-white imagery is stunning, and the message is hard to miss.

Swift: "Out of the Woods"
Watching the gritty and colorful video for "Out of the Woods," it's clear this was Swift's most physically demanding video shoot. Director Joseph Kahn said as much, tweeting, "Taylor was so dedicated to making this video. I was wrapped in snow gear. She was in a dress. She suffered for her art."

Edge: Lamar. This clip is more innovative than showy.

CHOICE LYRICS

Lamar: "The ghost of Mandela, hope my flows they propel it/Let these words be your earth and moon you consume every message/As I lead this army make room for mistakes and depression/And with that being said my [bleep], let me ask this question/When [bleep] hit the fan, is you still a fan?" ("Mortal Man")

Swift: "Are we out of the woods yet?/Are we out of the woods yet?/Are we out of the woods yet?/Are we out of the woods?/Are we in the clear yet?/Are we in the clear yet?/In the clear yet?/Good." ("Out of the Woods")

Edge: Guess.

CHOICE DISS

Lamar: "I can dig rapping, but a rapper with a ghost writer?/What the [bleep] happened? (Oh no) I swore I wouldn't tell/But most of y'all share bars, like you got the bottom bunk in a two-man cell." ("King Kunta")

Swift: "Band-Aids don't fix bullet holes/You say sorry just for show/You live like that, you live with ghosts." ("Bad Blood")

Edge: Katy Perry. Though Drake was arguably the target of Kendrick Lamar's ire, Swift's feud with pop's other gargantuan megastar not named Beyonce was a bigger deal.

WORST SONG

Lamar: The second half of "Mortal Man"
The closing track of "To Pimp A Butterfly" clocks in at a whopping 12 minutes. Much of that runtime, though, is dedicated to Lamar Forrest Gumping himself into an interview with his idol Tupac Shakur. It's a fitting moment in the record but not the most lively listening experience.

Swift: "Welcome to New York"
While it makes a little more sense in the context of the whole album, this opener is so, so, so grating. I can't stand it.

Edge: Swift. As much as I hate that song, it does have more replay value than the resurfaced and repurposed Tupac Shakur interview.

FAMOUS FRIENDS

Lamar: President Obama.
The POTUS recently said that Lamar's "How Much a Dollar Cost" was his favorite song of 2015. Obama also welcomed Lamar to the White House to discuss issues facing the youth and Compton.

Swift: Selena Gomez.
Two of pop's biggest names are also the bestest friends. Check Instagram for some charming selfies, and check Gomez co-starring in Swift's bonkers "Bad Blood" video.

Edge: Swift. Sorry, pal! Being the leader of the free world is cool and all, Barack, but I don't think you could write a song as good as "Same Old Love" even with the help of Charli XCX.

ALBUM COVER

Lamar

Swift

Edge: Lamar.
While both images take on a vintage Polaroid feel, only Lamar's has political and emotional weight.

OVERALL WINNER

Lamar. Again, both albums are great, and comparing them is weird. But still.

WHY KENDRICK DESERVES TO WIN ALBUM OF THE YEAR

SOUND BOARD
Josh Terry
» jterry@redeyechicago.com
» @joshhterry

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Meghan Trainor

Courtney Barnett
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

D'Angelo
GETTY IMAGES FILE

HOW TO SOUND SMART WHILE WATCHING (OR LIVE-TWEETING) THE 2016 GRAMMYS

By Josh Terry | REDEYE

Unless you're hoping to win one, I'm guessing that you don't really care about the Grammys. To be honest, neither do I. For many, though, the music awards show (whose 58th ceremony takes place at 7 p.m. Monday on CBS) is still good for live-tweeting and watching with your friends.

So even if the Grammys sometimes feel like nothing more than future trivia card answers (i.e. "Oh, right, I guess Tony Bennett did win Album of the Year in 1994 for an 'MTV Unplugged' record"), we still watch. We watch despite the fact that it's decided, like most things that are usually wrong, by an out-of-touch voting membership of people with goofy tastes who, history has suggested, are significantly older and whiter than the actual population. Even though these nominations are much better than most years', it's easy to think that there are going to be a lot of terribly picked winners.

Or will this be the year the Grammys get it right? Read on for a category-by-category breakdown with predictions, wishful thinking and dumb, free-to-use jokes to make you seem more informed. Read the full list at **redeyechicago.com**. @JOSHHTERRY | JTERRY@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

Charlie Puth
AP FILE

Chris Stapleton
AP FILE

Kendrick Lamar
LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE FILE

BEST NEW ARTIST

Nominees: Courtney Barnett, James Bay, Sam Hunt, Tori Kelly and Meghan Trainor.

Who should win: Courtney Barnett.

Who will win: Meghan Trainor.

Talking point: Sure, Trainor already has four Top 20-charting singles in her short career (No. 1 "All About That Bass," No. 4 "Lips Are Movin,' " No. 8 "Like I'm Gonna Lose You" and No. 14 "Dear Future Husband"), none of them even comes close to the wit, depth and charm of Barnett's "Sometimes I Sit and Think, and Sometimes I Just Think." Where the hell are Fetty Wap and Rae Sremmurd? This is the second most confusing category next to whatever "Urban Contemporary" is, especially considering Trainor was nominated for Record of the Year and Song of the Year last year.

Sample tweet: Barnett or bust.

RECORD OF THE YEAR

Nominees: D'Angelo and the Vanguard's "Really Love," Mark Ronson and Bruno Mars' "Uptown Funk," Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud," Taylor Swift's "Blank Space" and The Weeknd's "Can't Feel My Face."

Who should win: D'Angelo.

Who will win: I'm going to guess the Grammys will funk you up with some "Uptown Funk."

Talking point: No rap song has ever won Record of the Year, which is just crazy. When this award is about the actual recording of the track and not the actual songwriting, it's weird to see records as lush and massive-sounding as Kendrick Lamar's "King Kunta" not on this list.

Sample tweet: Just "Thinking Out Loud" here because I "Can't Feel My Face," but I would "Really Love" either "Uptown Funk" or that other artist to win, which I could name if my mind weren't a "Blank Space."

SONG OF THE YEAR

Nominees: Kendrick Lamar's "Alright," Taylor Swift's "Blank Space," Little Big Town's "Girl Crush," Wiz Khalifa and Charlie Puth's "See You Again" and Ed Sheeran's "Thinking Out Loud."

Who should win: "We gon' be alright!"

Who will win: God, if it's Charlie [bleep]ing Puth, I quit.

Talking point: No track captured the political and social climate last year better than Lamar's "Alright," RedEye's No. 1 song of 2015, which became a de facto slogan for the Black Lives Matter movement.

Sample tweet: Sorry, Ed, if this category were "Best Wedding Song of the Year" maybe "Thinking Out Loud" would fare a little better.

ALBUM OF THE YEAR

Nominees: Alabama Shakes' "Sound & Color," Kendrick Lamar's "To Pimp a Butterfly," Chris Stapleton's "Traveller," Taylor Swift's "1989" and The Weeknd's "Beauty Behind the Madness."

Who should win: "To Pimp a Butterfly."

Who will win: Considering last year's talk was all about Beyoncé vs. Sam Smith, the Grammys might pull a fast one and go for Chris Stapleton's "Traveller" instead of Taylor or Kendrick.

Talking point: I go long on Page 11 about how the Grammys should get its act together and give Kendrick Lamar not just the Best Rap Album award but the Album of the Year nod. Read it!

Sample tweet: Drafts: Twitter search "Who is [artist who won Album of the Year]?"

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Naoki Nakashima

ON A ROLL

We found sushi heaven in Lincoln Park, and it's called Naoki

Madai with charred shimeji mushroom & plum syrup

By Michael Nagrant | FOR REDEYE

I have reached peak taco status. The same goes for steak, pad thai and pulled pork. Even if all of the restaurants that specialize in these foods closed tomorrow, I'd still be golden. I've been to the mountaintop and back—and back up again. You may think this is sacrilegious, and I understand. In case you're wondering, there's no such thing as peak fried chicken or pizza status. The same goes for really good sushi.

If I lived elsewhere, I might feel differently. But I live in Chicago, which, while no longer a strictly meat and potatoes town, is often focused on satisfying pork fetishes. Despite the fact that you can have a 50-inch flat-screen TV delivered to your apartment in about an hour via Amazon Prime Now or secure pristine lobster via FedEx, Chicago has only recently started to serve great seafood.

Raw fish is another matter entirely. In Chicago, Jiro doesn't dream of sushi; rather, Pauly fantasizes about Italian beef. Like taquerias and noodle joints, there seems to be a sushi spot on every corner, but they're mostly serving slabs of poorly cut second-rate fish draped over mushy molehills of soggy rice.

That's where Naoki in Lincoln Park comes in for a save.

Don't call him an overnight sensation

In 1991, having spent five years working in a noodle shop and as a fishmonger in Fukuoka, Japan, Naoki Nakashima traveled to California at the ripe age of 21 and secured a job as a dishwasher at a sushi restaurant called Bando Ya, where he met his mentor Masa-san. Masa-san later left that restaurant and opened his own place. Nakashima followed and worked under him for four years, learning how to make perfect rice and cut fish with excellence and detail. "I cut cucumbers for a long time. I wasn't allowed to touch the tuna," Nakashima laughed. "It was too expensive."

Nakashima left Masa-san and opened restaurants in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, and Hong Kong, eventually ending up in Chicago at NoMI. After three years, he joined Lettuce Entertain You, where he designed sushi programs for various restaurants including Shaw's Crab House and Tokio Pub in Schaumburg. After 13 years, Lettuce recently offered him the opportunity to open his own namesake restaurant, Naoki.

RATINGS KEY ★✶✶✶ DEAD UPON ARRIVAL ★★✶✶ PROCEED WITH CAUTION ★★★✶ GIVE IT SOME TIME
★★★✶ TAKE IT OR LEAVE IT ★★★★ OFF TO A GOOD START ★★★★ HEATING UP ★★★★ ALREADY HOT

Lobster ohzara

King crab temaki

Mob-tastic entrance meets Zen-like space

Naoki is located inside Intro, another Lettuce property, in an old private dining room tucked behind the kitchen. In order to access the space, you have to walk through the kitchen, passing fancy wine fridges and an aquarium, where you'll come face-to-face with live lobsters you may eat during your meal. It all felt very mafioso, like I was preparing to whack someone over a plate of meatballs.

But Naoki's dining room isn't stuffed with red leather booths and checkered tablecloths. Instead, it features dark leather semicircle banquettes, handsome blond wood paneling and columns inlaid with glass, one of which has a diorama of jellyfish in suspended animation. The dining room is hushed, and sushi cooks work like surgeons, silently toasting seaweed, scooping rice and flaying fish behind a wide backlit bar. The silence is punctuated by boisterous and gracious hails of "thank yous" and "goodbyes" and a few bows from the chefs when patrons finish their meals and leave.

So much depends on good rice and eggs

Two marks of a great sushi chef are the quality of their rice and the texture of their tamago or omelet. Nakashima's rice—whether it's underpinning nigiri or coating the walls of a maki roll—features distinct toothy grains seasoned with sugar, salt and the faint whiff of kombu or seaweed. His tamago isn't the desiccated, over-sweetened lump found at corner sushi shacks, but instead has a soufflé-like lightness and briny finish imparted by a touch of shrimp paste. Both components are the basis of a fine maki roll enrobed with silky truffle-scented unagi and triangular scrims of cucumber ($16). My only issue is that the eel's outer flesh was a touch too soft and could have used a longer toasting to offer a crispier contrast to the interior. But this is really my only complaint of the night. Another maki roll with salmon and spicy shrimp ($15) bursts with a sun-drenched lemony finish.

REVIEW
Naoki
2300 N. Lincoln Park West
773-868-0002
★★★★
Already hot

Sashimi of the future

Nakashima's real prowess is on full display in a section of the menu called Naoki-style sashimi, which features a handful of lithe cuts of fish flavored with various sauces and garnishes. These composed plates are not your typical sashimi. They meld a sushi master's fish-cutting precision with a four-star chef's acumen for flavor and balance.

Five pale-pink planks of madai snapper ($16) featuring flecks of pearlescent bits of skin are arranged in a star pattern with a nest of translucent shaved radish curls in the center. Each piece of fish is garnished with micro-sized shimeji mushrooms (they look like studio apartments for young urban Smurfs). There's also a drizzle of pickled plum syrup, which imparts a grand finale of sweetness, salt and fruit in each bite.

Another sashimi display features hamachi ($24) dabbed with a Sriracha-like Peruvian red pepper puree, tiny scallion ribbons and crisp, fiery rounds of Serrano chili. The spice is offset by a ponzu sauce bursting with vinegar and orange blossom.

All of Nakashima's plates are perfectly seasoned and require little accoutrement, but if you need it, the tableside soy sauce is smoky and delicately salty, not overwhelming like that bottle of Kikkoman sitting in the back of your fridge.

Hot for lobster

Unlike many sushi chefs who only stick to preparing raw fish, Nakashima is also in charge of appetizers and hot plates at Naoki.

There's an edamame "guac" dip on offer ($6.75), which I ordered reluctantly with flashbacks of so many Mexican restaurants making the stuff tableside and charging me $12 for the privilege. But no one works a basalt mortar and pestle here. Flanked by rice crisps, the finished plate arrives painted with a minty green puree flecked with black sesame seeds and a few whole edamame beans. Edamame offers a milder and creamier base than avocado for guacamole. Nakashima's version is fiery, limey and pungent with garlic. I may never eat Mexican guac again.

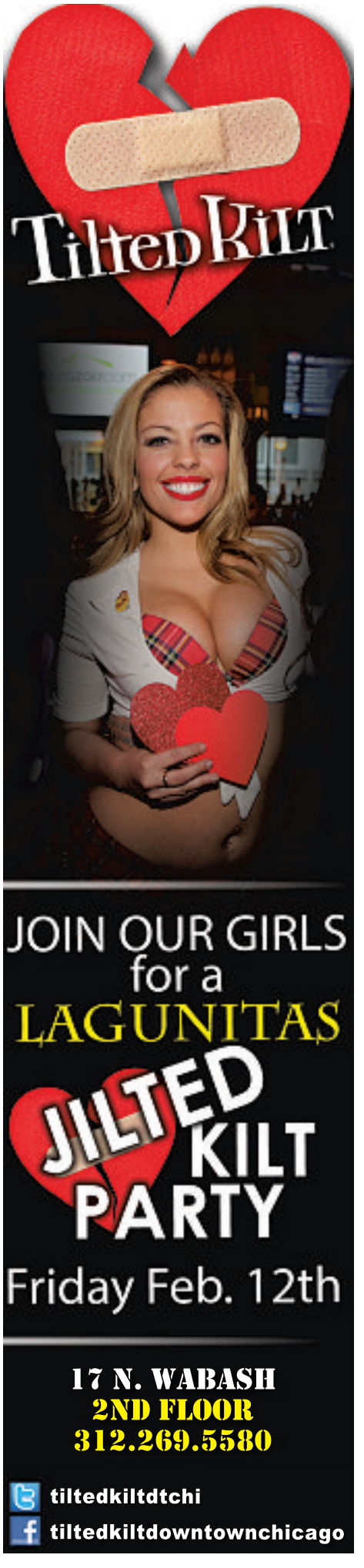
A truffle chawanmushi ($6.50) is the offspring of a creme brulee and truffle-spiked ramen. Dense egg custard swims in dashi broth perfumed with truffle funk that's so comforting and savory it's like Japan's version of chicken soup for the soul.

But the capper of the evening is a whole lobster ($28.95)—the same one I met on the way in—split, roasted in spicy togarashi butter and served with more of that incredible ponzu I experienced with the Naoki-style sashimi. The lobster meat is so delicate that it eats more like riced and buttered potato than the flubbery flesh you'll find elsewhere.

Bottom line

Nakashima is one of Chicago's best sushi chefs. His new namesake sushi joint is serving some of the best sushi in the city, and it should not be missed.

MICHAEL NAGRANT IS A REDEYE CONTRIBUTOR. REPORTERS VISIT RESTAURANTS UNANNOUNCED, AND MEALS ARE PAID FOR BY REDEYE.



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THE HATEFUL 7

THE WORST DAYS TO FLY THIS YEAR

By Hugo Martin | LOS ANGELES TIMES

By now, most savvy air travelers know that the best time to book a flight is about six to eight weeks before the departure date.

But flying on certain days is going to cost more, no matter when you book.

Rick Seaney, chief executive of the website **FareCompare.com**, has analyzed airfare data to calculate which dates to avoid in 2016 if you want to save money:

March 17: Airfares peak on this date as travelers head out for spring break.

May 17: Airlines increase fares on this date for travelers flying for summer vacations.

June 10: Airfares jump again on this date as demand grows for summer travel.

July 31: After this date, weekday fares for summer travel will begin to drop.

Aug. 22: After this date, summer airfares will begin to decline.

Nov. 23 and 27: For travelers flying for Thanksgiving, avoid the high fares on these days.

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drink *of the week*

LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE

You Remind Me of the Babe ($12) at South Water Kitchen 225 N. Wabash Ave. 312-236-9300

By Heather Schroering | REDEYE

Don't let South Water Kitchen head bartender Dan Rook's cocktail menu fool you. It's not you who reminds him of the babe. It's the weird magic dancing in the glass of one of his latest creations, You Remind Me of the Babe, an odd combination of tequila, lavender syrup, charred broccoli shrub and herbaceous tonic water.

"Some people think it's about a girl and are like, 'So who's the babe?' " said Rook, RedEye's 2015 Best Bartender. But David Bowie fans know what babe. (It's a "Labyrinth" reference, for everyone who's still lost.) The day Rook was pondering whether or not to include the broccoli shrub on the menu was the same day Bowie died. "I thought, 'Is it too weird?' " he said. "But nothing's too weird for David Bowie."

Though broccoli and booze are an unlikely pair, the cocktail is less vegetal than expected. It teeters the line between sweet and savory, but the botanical elements make the drink truly interesting. It's part of Rook's "From the kitchen" section on the menu, with cocktails including food components and seasonal ingredients such as watermelon radish, beet and horseradish.

For cocktail inspiration, he often consults "The Flavor Thesaurus," a book recommended by one of his regulars. It's where he found gai lan broccoli, a Chinese cross between broccoli and kale, and paired it with some ingredients typically found in Asian cuisine to make a shrub, or a sweet vinegar-based syrup.

On its own, the shrub—charred gai lan broccoli, fresh ginger, cayenne, rice wine vinegar, fennel seed, coconut sugar and orange and lemon peel—is pretty abrasive, like something your grandma would concoct to cure a cold. But in the cocktail, it works in harmony with the earthy broccoli, which is especially subtle, while ginger and lavender notes are most prevalent. The herbal characteristics from the tonic and lavender syrup complement the shrub rather than compete with it.

Getting weird is kind of Rook's thing. You Remind Me of the Babe is definitely that. We think Bowie would approve.

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			3	7	4			
	4					1	2	3
	6	3		1				
4				2				7
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DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★☆

6	2	7	1	3	8	5	4	9
4	8	1	7	5	9	3	2	6
3	5	9	4	6	2	1	8	7
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1	3	8	9	4	7	6	5	2
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9	1	6	3	2	4	8	7	5
8	7	3	6	9	5	2	1	4
2	4	5	8	7	1	9	6	3

WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS

S	N	A	P	S		S	P	A	S		M	A	S	S
W	I	D	O	W		A	R	C	H		A	R	L	E
A	N	D	R	E		V	O	T	E		L	O	I	N
P	E	S	T	E	R	E	D		L	O	A	D	E	D
			A	P	E	O		P	L	A	Y	E	R	S
W	I	L	L	E	M		R	E	S	T	S			
A	R	C		R	I	D	E	R		H	I	C	K	S
S	O	N	S		T	R	A	C	T		A	U	N	T
A	N	T	I	S		A	P	H	I	D		L	E	I
			M	I	N	K	S		D	E	T	T	E	R
A	D	O	P	T	E	E		V	I	S	A			
R	I	F	L	E	S		F	E	A	S	I	B	L	E
D	A	T	E		T	A	L	E		F	I	L	E	N
O	N	E	S		L	I	A	R		R	O	U	N	D
R	A	N	T		E	L	K	S		T	R	E	S	S

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	8	9	■	10	11	12	13
14				■	15					■	16			
17				■	18					19				
20			■	21				■	■	22				
■	■	23	24				■	■	25			■	■	■
26	27					■	■	28				29	30	■
31					■	32	33				■	34		35
36				■	37					■	38			
39			■	40					■	41				
■	42		43				■	■	44					
■	■	■	45			■	■	46					■	■
47	48	49			■	■	50				■	51	52	53
54					55	56				■	57			
58				■	59					■	60			
61				■	62					■	63			

ACROSS
1 Piece of living room furniture
5 Jack in a nursery rhyme
10 Possesses
14 Pancake restaurant
15 "The __ Is Right"
16 Metal bar
17 Blaze
18 Remorse
20 Foot digit
21 Bakery offerings
22 Said no more
23 Pretend
25 Sack
26 Dumbbells
28 Andretti & Foyt
31 Mary Poppins, for one
32 Be a freeloader
34 Ancient
36 Small but very powerful boats
37 Fido's restraint
38 Urgent request
39 Half and half
40 Wood hole filler
41 Not as vibrant in color
42 Characteristics
44 One of many in a cookbook
45 Miniature
46 Police car's blaring device
47 Jacob's twin
50 Chore
51 Large antelope
54 Tyrannical
57 Neat as __
58 __ up; bound
59 Refueling ship
60 Twiggy's skirt
61 Colony builders
62 Put clothes on
63 Uppity person

DOWN
1 Use a colander
2 "The Buckeye State"
3 Second of five on a hand
4 Mimic
5 Bits of parsley
6 Overuse the mirror
7 Tears
8 Part of a royal flush
9 Take __; rest for a bit
10 Citrus fruit
11 Magician's stick
12 Pleasant
13 Snow toy
19 Instruct
21 Compassion
24 Geologic ages
25 Johann Sebastian __
26 Bump __; meet unexpectedly
27 Intimidate
28 Pinkish-colored
29 Dough flattener
30 Slumber
32 New York team
33 Cereal grain
35 Show boldness
37 Early guitar
38 Walk the floor
40 __ of cake; easy task
41 Side benefit of one's job
43 Trophies
44 Early __; those up with the sun
46 Keeps for later
47 Tiny amount
48 Twirl
49 In __; sulking
50 Flooring square
52 El __; weather pattern
53 College credit
55 Layer of turf
56 Knight's title
57 Mornings, for short

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» About 85 percent of humans breathe primarily out of one nostril at a time.
» About 2 billion people worldwide are entomophagous, which means insects are a regular part of their diets.
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red hot

PARAMOUNT PICTURES

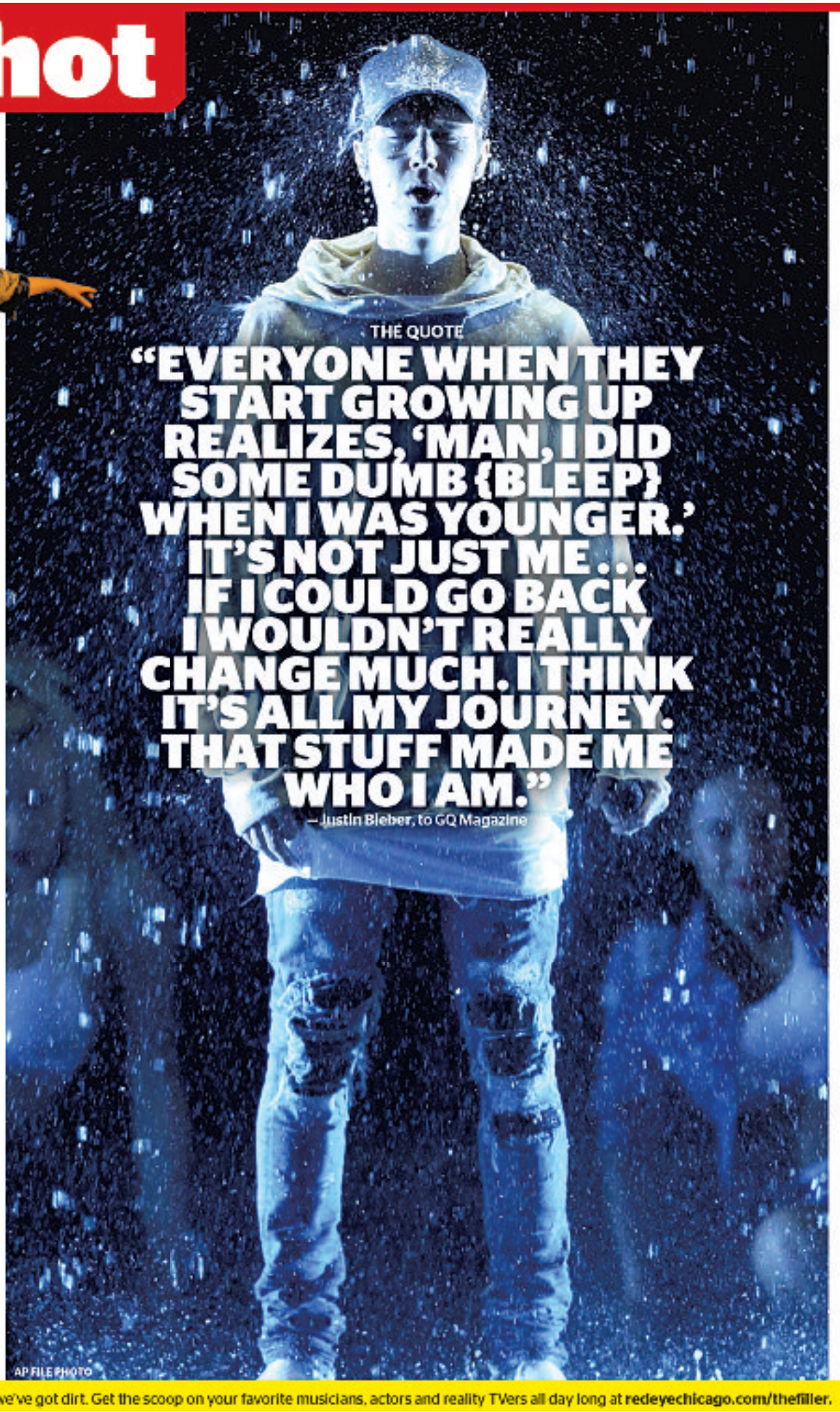
She's not letting go

Despite calls for boycotts of the Oscars, **Kate Winslet** is still planning to go. She confirmed on Tuesday that she wouldn't miss it for the world. "To be honest with you, it has been such an extraordinary year for women, I'd feel like I was letting my side down if I didn't go," she told the BBC, according to **vulture.com**. "And also I feel very strongly that it may possibly be Leo's year. And he is my closest friend in the world and I just couldn't imagine not being there to support him." Wow, it's going to be awkward if he doesn't win.

Ryan Reynolds as Deadpool

'Deadpool' 2? Chimichangas yeah!

Fox is taking a chance on "Deadpool." According to **thr.com**, the studio is already working on a sequel to the movie, which is on track to open to at least $65 million over the holiday weekend. Count us in a thousand times over for "Deadpool."


AP FILE PHOTO

THE QUOTE

"EVERYONE WHEN THEY START GROWING UP REALIZES, 'MAN, I DID SOME DUMB {BLEEP} WHEN I WAS YOUNGER.' IT'S NOT JUST ME... IF I COULD GO BACK I WOULDN'T REALLY CHANGE MUCH. I THINK IT'S ALL MY JOURNEY. THAT STUFF MADE ME WHO I AM."

— Justin Bieber, to GQ Magazine

19 YEARS LATER

It's happening. J.K. Rowling's publishing platform Pottermore announced Wednesday that the upcoming play "Harry Potter and the Cursed Child" will be released as a book on July 31. According to **vox.com**, the story takes a look at Harry Potter's life 19 years after the events of "Deathly Hallows." Well, count us in for sure. You never grow out of Harry Potter.

Gregory Peck as Atticus Finch in 1962's 'To Kill a Mockingbird'

'To Kill a Mockingbird' on Broadway?

The classic book is getting the Aaron Sorkin treatment. According to **latimes.com**, Sorkin will pen the play, and this will be the first time an authorized version of the story will appear on Broadway. We can't wait for Atticus to do the walk and talk.

THE DIGIT

800K

That's about how many subscribers HBO Now has, according to **variety.com**. That's below the 1 to 2 million subscribers that had been predicted, but HBO CEO Richard Plepler is still excited. "We're just getting started. ... I think we're going to make a lot of progress as we put new content on to our platforms," he said, Variety reported.

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